

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR DON KNABE

January 13, 2009

The Board of Supervisors traditionally proclaims January as Cervical Health Awareness Month to draw attention to the many activities planned throughout Los Angeles County to focus attention on the importance of the early detection and prevention of cervical cancer. The latest data shows that 527 women in Los Angeles County were diagnosed with cervical cancer in 2005 and 140 women died of it – unnecessarily because cervical cancer is a preventable disease.

Although many strides have been made and the incidence and mortality of cervical cancer is decreasing, certain populations such as low income women of color remain at high risk. With the FDA approval of the first vaccine against the Human Papillomavirus or HPV, there is an effective new weapon in our fight against this disease. However, since the HPV vaccine will prevent only 70% of cervical cancers, it is still important that women continue to receive Pap test screenings.

To increase the number of underserved women screened, the Los Angeles County Office of Women's Health provides appointments for free Pap tests to low-income women who call their 1-800 multi-lingual hotline. No woman should have to die from this preventable disease.

- M O R E -

MOTION

MOLINA \_\_\_\_\_

RIDLEY-THOMAS \_\_\_\_\_

YAROSLAVSKY \_\_\_\_\_

ANTONOVICH \_\_\_\_\_

KNABE \_\_\_\_\_

**I, THEREFORE, MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors:

1. Proclaim the month of January 2009 as “Cervical Health Awareness Month” throughout Los Angeles County in recognition of the many activities to increase awareness that cervical cancer is preventable with vaccination prior to exposure to HPV and routine screening exams that lead to its early detection and treatment; and
2. Encourage County departments to provide educational activities for department staff, and to coordinate and participate in community outreach and screening activities during January 2009; and
3. Instruct the Auditor-Controller to work with the Director of Public Health in making arrangements to provide Cervical Health Awareness Month information on the January 2009 paychecks of all County employees.

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RE:mh